

Montana Department  
of Commerce  
301 S. Park Ave.  
Helena, MT 59602

# Montana Department of Commerce Business Resources Division Newsletter

Summer 2010

The Montana Department of Commerce has created this quarterly newsletter to update you on the status of our business resources business financing programs and other program news. Contact information for each program is provided. Feel free to contact any Business Resources staff when you have questions about our programs, or to discuss potential applications.

## Greetings from Montana Department of Commerce Director Dore Schwinden



Director Dore Schwinden  
Ph: 406-841-2704

A recent report from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says Montana is definitely on the move for economic growth – especially for entrepreneurs and business innovators.

The report – *Enterprising States: Creating Jobs, Economic Development, and Prosperity in Challenging Times* – looks at the success of state-driven economic development by evaluating state policies, practices, job creation and other economic outputs.

The report ranks Montana first in the nation in the category of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Performers. Montana also makes the top ten for states in the category of Overall Growth Performers.

This is *great* news. It is proof we're on the right track. We *are* moving forward.

I am committed to continuing this momentum. Together, through Governor Brian Schweitzer's economic vision, Montana's economic development partners and the valuable resources available to businesses through the Montana Department of Commerce, we will continue to create a climate for economic prosperity in Montana.

Dore Schwinden, Director  
Montana Department of Commerce

## Community Development Block Grant — Economic Development Program

Community Development Block Grant

Economic Development (CDBG-ED)

Ph: 406-841-2744

Email: [nguccione@mt.gov](mailto:nguccione@mt.gov)

Website: <http://businessresources.mt.gov/CDBG/default.mcp>



Nancy Guccione, Section Manager

Current Available Funding  
\$1,731,406



Project: Big Sandy Activities—New Facility (39 Jobs)

Location: Big Sandy, Chouteau County

Funding Sources: CDBG-ED \$504,513; CDBG Public Facilities \$450,000;  
USDA Loan \$346,000; USDA Grant \$115,500; Opportunity Link \$100,000;  
Local Funds \$36,500.

## Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant Program

Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant (WTG)  
Ph: 406-841-2744  
Email: [nguccione@mt.gov](mailto:nguccione@mt.gov)

Current Available  
Funding  
\$2,626,000



Nancy Guccione, Section Manager

Program Website:

<http://businessresources.mt.gov/WTG/default.mcpv>



Project: Schoggi, Inc. dba West Paw Design, Business Expansion for Pet Supplies (36 Jobs)

Location: Bozeman

Funding Sources: WTG \$108,000, Schoggi, Inc. dba West Paw Design \$2,073,000.

## Are Trade Shows a Part of Your Marketing Plan?

### We can Help!

#### About Business Resources Division

The Division is comprised of a variety of programs aimed at improving, enhancing, and diversifying Montana's economic and business climate.

The Office of Trade & International Relations provides the popular Trade Show Assistance Program. It provides matching funds up to \$2,000 to qualified companies\* for the purposes of attending wholesale trade shows outside of Montana (including internationally).

For more information go to <http://www.madeinmontanausa.com/tradeshowinfo.asp>.

\* Agriculture based companies who are eligible for the Department of Agriculture Trade Show Assistance Program are NOT eligible for the Commerce program. For more information about the Ag program go to <http://agr.mt.gov/business/TradeShow/TSAP.asp> or contact Angie DeYoung, 406-444-5424, [adeyoung@mt.gov](mailto:adeyoung@mt.gov).

## Indian Country Economic Development Program

Indian Country Economic Development (ICED) Program

Phone: 406-841-2775

Email: [hsobrepena@mt.gov](mailto:hsobrepena@mt.gov)

Program Website: <http://iced.mt.gov/default.mcpv>



Project: Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Arts and Crafts Cultural Information and Tourism Center  
Funding Sources: ICED Funds \$70,000



Heather Sobrepena-George  
Program Manager

## Montana Finance Information Center

A website for information on funding sources for financing options, program websites, how to start a business, and other pertinent information:

<http://www.mtfinanceonline.com/>

Contact: Karyl Tobel  
Phone: 406-841-2732  
Email: [karylt@mt.gov](mailto:karylt@mt.gov)

## Montana Wood Products Revolving Loan Fund

Montana Distressed Wood Products Industry

Recovery and  
Stabilization (WPIRS)  
Program

PH: 406-841-2594

Email: [cjones@mt.gov](mailto:cjones@mt.gov)

Program Website:

<http://recovery.mt.gov/commerce/wpirs/default.mcpv>

Available Funding  
\$29,000



Carolyn Jones, Program Manager



Project: Hanson Trucking, Working Capital Loan (55 Jobs)

Location: Columbia Falls

Funding Sources: State WPIRS \$175,000, Hanson Trucking, \$175,000

## Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program

Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF) Program

PH: 406-841-2792

Email: [anelson@mt.gov](mailto:anelson@mt.gov)

Program Website:

<http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF/default.mcpv>

### Available Funding

Approximately \$2.1 million in funding is available annually, please contact program staff for funding availability.



Angela Nelson, Program Manager



Project: Signal Peak Energy, LLC; Purchase of Equipment (130 Jobs)

Location: Musselshell County

Funding Sources: BSTF \$975,000, WIRED \$300,000, Boich Companies \$325,000, FirstEnergy \$125,000.

**Fall Application Workshops for CDBG-ED, BSTF, and  
WTG economic development grant applications.**

**WTG November 5, 2010**

**CDBG-ED November 18, 2010**

**BSTF November 30, 2010**

**Workshop specifics to be announced.**



## Other Business Assistance Programs

Indian Equity Fund (Grant assistance to Native American owned businesses.)

Contact: Phillip Belangie

Phone: 406-721-3663

Email: [pbelangie@mt.gov](mailto:pbelangie@mt.gov)

Website: <http://entrepreneur.mt.gov/default.mcpix>

Micro Business Finance Program (Microbusiness loans through MicroBusiness Development Corporations)

Contact: Janice Wannebo

Phone: 406-841-2751

Email: [jwannebo@mt.gov](mailto:jwannebo@mt.gov)

Website: <http://businessresources.mt.gov/MBFP/default.mcpix>

Small Business Development Center (Technical assistance to businesses)

Contact: Ann Desch

Phone: 406-841-2746

Email: [adesch@mt.gov](mailto:adesch@mt.gov)

Website: <http://sbdcc.mt.gov/default.mcpix>

Made in Montana Program (Promotion of authentic Montana products)

Contact: Shari Hunter Brownlee

Phone: 406-841-2757

Email: [madeinmontana@mt.gov](mailto:madeinmontana@mt.gov)

Website: <http://www.madeinmontanausa.com/>

Export Montana (Helps Montana companies compete globally)

Contact: Sara Warren

Phone: 406-841-2754

Email: [exportmontana@mt.gov](mailto:exportmontana@mt.gov)

Website: <http://exportmontana.com/default.mcpix>

Census and Economic Information Center (U.S. Census 2010 data and economic information)

Contact: Mary Craigle

Phone: 406-841-2739

Email: [mcraigle@mt.gov](mailto:mcraigle@mt.gov)

Website: <http://ceic.mt.gov/index.asp>

Board of Research and Commercialization (Funding for research and commercialization projects at R&C centers)

Contact: Dave Desch

Phone: 406-841-2759

Email: [ddesch@mt.gov](mailto:ddesch@mt.gov)

Website: <http://businessresources.mt.gov/MBRCT/default.mcpix>

Main Street Program (Revitalize downtown commercial districts)

Contact: Julie Burk

Phone: 406-841-2756

Email: [jburb@mt.gov](mailto:jburb@mt.gov)

Website: <http://mtmainstreet.mt.gov/default.mcpix>

## Other Business Assistance Programs

State Tribal Economic Development Commission (Assessment of economic needs and priorities of reservations)

Contact: Jason Smith

Phone: 406-841-2821

Email: [jsmith@mt.gov](mailto:jsmith@mt.gov)

Website: <http://tribal.mt.gov/default.mcpix>

Broadband Program (Broadband mapping and planning)

Contact: Chad Hultin

Phone: 406-841-2875

Email: [chultin@mt.gov](mailto:chultin@mt.gov)

Website: <http://recovery.mt.gov/commerce/broadband/default.mcpix>

Certified Regional Development Corporation Program (Regional economic development and capacity building)

Contact: Fran Viereck

Phone: 406-841-2736

Email: [fviereck@mt.gov](mailto:fviereck@mt.gov)

Website: <http://businessresources.mt.gov/CRDC/default.mcpix>



*Montana Department of Commerce*

*Helena*